

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



**"Blessed are those
who have not seen and yet
have come to believe."**

John 20:29, NRSV

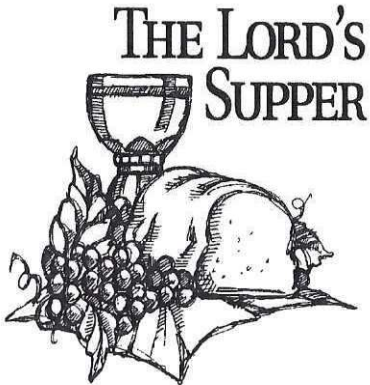
2nd Sunday of Easter

WE BELIEVE!

April 7, 2024

TODAY'S MESSAGE: WE BELIEVE!

In today's reading from John, chapter 20, Jesus appears to His disciples on the evening of the day that He rose from the dead. His first words to them were, "Peace be with you." He showed them His hands and His side that had been pierced by the nails and a spear, and the reading tells us that they "were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." One week later, Jesus appeared to them again, He assured doubting Thomas that He had truly risen from the dead, and John tells us that all these things (in the book of John and in all of the Scriptures) were written so that all people would believe in Jesus and have life, even eternal life, in His name. As He did for His disciples then, Jesus comes to us today to give us peace, life and joy.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper". Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.

Welcome

Psalm 118:24

P: This is the day the LORD has made.

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"Lord Jesus Christ, be Present Now"

LSB 902

**Lord Jesus Christ, be present now. Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine, and let Your truth within us shine.**

**Unseal our lips to sing Your praise, in endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds. And set us free from doubt that blinds.**

**Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O holy, holy Lord Most High!"
And in the light of that blest place, we then shall see You face to face.**

**All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, be praise throughout eternity!**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* A - - - men

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 148

P: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

C: **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

P: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

C: **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

C: **He established them forever and ever; he gave a decree and it shall not pass away.**

P: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

C: **Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

P: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.

C: **Praise the LORD!**

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise.
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled –
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat.
See the ancient pow'rs of evil, in confusion and retreat.
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high.
Alleluia to the Savior, who has gained the victory.
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia! To the triune Majesty!**

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And also with you.

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you are alive and you are with us today and forever. Increase our faith and inspire our witness. Fill your people with the power of your resurrection that we would labor faithfully in joy until every tongue confess, "My Lord and my God"; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading [ESV]

Acts 4:32-35

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Second Reading [ESV]

1 John 1:1–2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

LSB 470 (v.1, 4-8)

**O sons and daughters of the King, whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**That night the apostles met in fear. Among them came their master dear,
And said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**When Thomas first the tidings heard, that they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**"My pierced side, O Thomas see, and look upon My hands, My feet."
"Not faithless but believing be." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**No longer Thomas then denied. He saw the feet, the hands, the side.
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**How blest are they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Sermon

WE BELIEVE!

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“He is Arisen! Glorious Word”

LSB 488

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord. The gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die, and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon. O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

Offering *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, “The peace of the Lord be with you.”)*

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

- P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

Prayers

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

- P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*
- C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*
- C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy, Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my $\text{\textcircled{X}}$ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my $\text{\textcircled{X}}$ blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* A - men.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

LSB 720

**We walk by faith and not by sight, no gracious words we hear,
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.**

**We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod.
But in His promise we rejoice, and cry "My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief. And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near, and seek where You are found.**

**For You, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, beneath the bread and wine.**

**Lord, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light,
We may behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.**

**O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love.
O name of might and favor, all other names above.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing.
We praise Thee and confess Thee, our holy Lord and King.**

**O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought,
Thyself the revelation, of love beyond our thought.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing.
We praise Thee and confess Thee, our gracious Lord and King.**

**In Thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and pow’r divine.
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing.
We praise Thee and confess Thee, our glorious Lord and King.**

**O grant the consummation, of this our song above,
In endless adoration, and everlasting love.
Then shall we praise and bless Thee, where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, our Savior and our King!**

**Jesus Christ, my sure defense, and my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence, rests upon the hope here given,
Though the night of death be fraught, still with many an anxious thought.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, lives. Likewise I do to life shall waken.
He will bring me where He is. Shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head, rise and leave His members dead?**

**No, too closely I am bound, by my hope to Christ forever.
Faith’s strong hand the Rock has found, grasped it, and will leave it never.
Even death now cannot part, from its Lord the trusting heart.**

**I am flesh and must return, to the dust, whence I am taken.
But by faith I now discern, that from death I shall awaken,
With my Savior to abide, in His glory, at His side.**

**Glorified, I shall anew, with this flesh then be enshrouded.
In this body I shall view, God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded.
In this flesh I then shall see, Jesus Christ eternally.**

**Then take comfort and rejoice, for His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice. Dying, they will never perish.
For the very grave is stirred, when the trumpet's blast is heard.**

**Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave, and at death no longer tremble.
He, the Lord, who came to save, will at last His own assemble.
They will go their Lord to meet, treading death beneath their feet.**

**O, then, draw away your hearts, from all pleasures base and hollow.
Strive to share what He imparts, while you here His footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise, fix your hearts beyond the skies!**

Song of Thanksgiving

“Thank the Lord”

Psalm 100

Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: (sung) A - men, A - men, A - - men.

**Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you. You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing. You are My Own.**

**Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story. Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to Me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you. Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, My children, I will keep you, and give you peace.**

**CLC MISSION STATEMENT: "We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God's Word,
sharing God's love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name."**